

Ban on cow slaughter

107. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to impose a complete ban on cow slaughter through a legislation;
- (b) if not, what steps Government have taken to persuade the State Governments which do not have State legislations; and
- (c) what are the reasons that Government have not imposed a ban on cow slaughter in accordance with Article 48 of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States as enjoined by Article 246(3) of the Constitution, preservation of cattle is a matter on which the Legislature of the State has exclusive powers to legislate.

Most of the States have banned/restricted the slaughter of cow and its progeny.

Drought Hit States

108. SHRI B.J.PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of States are reeling under the impact of severe drought;
- (b) if so, what are those States;
- (c) whether Orissa is one of those drought affected States;
- (d) if so, that areas in the State affected by draughts;
- (e) whether the Joint Ministerial Group has met to decided how the drought-hit States would be assisted; and
- (f) if so, the decision taken in the matter?